

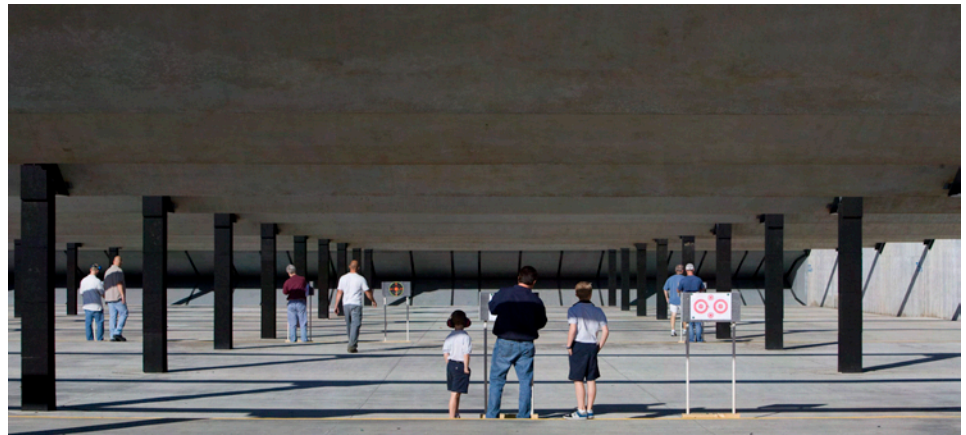


## Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

**T**he New Year is here and so are some exciting changes for the approximately 40,000 St. Louis regional shooters and hunters. The Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center is undergoing a major renovation and will be closed for an expected 24 to 30 months. For more information on the progress being made at the Busch range go to <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/270>

In consideration of the temporary Busch Range shutdown, plans have been made for the Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center to ensure that there are additional opportunities available for those who normally enjoy the Busch range and shooting programs and to better support everybody. Henges will be adding additional hours to their normal schedule and starting their warm season schedule earlier and running it longer.

At this time, the Henges facility is the primary place to go for staffed range opportunities and outdoor education related programs. Lights have been installed on the ranges at Henges to allow shooting to take place even during periods of limited daylight and to better schedule and provide evening programs for all. Other enhancements include: larger trap houses,



additional specialized targets on the archery range for crossbow, concrete shooting line on the archery range, improved shotgun patterning range and improvement to the 100 plus person classroom. For more information on the Jay Henges Shooting Range and the programs offered at its Outdoor Education Center, visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/299>.

For unstaffed range opportunities in the area, check out the Logan Conservation Area, Reifsnider State Forest, or Little Indian Creek Conservation Area. All three areas offer ranges for rifle, handgun, and shotgun slug shooting. The Logan range has target lines out to 40 yards. Both Reifsnider and Little Indian Creek have target lines out to

100 yards. Logan and Little Indian Creek have designated shotgun areas for shooters to bring clay targets with hand throwers or mechanical throwers for shotgun target shooting. For more information on the unstaffed ranges visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/4460>.

While the Department does not endorse any outside range facility, St. Louis is an area of the state rich with commercial and membership ranges. For more information on locating these ranges, visit the National Shooting Sports Foundation's range locator at <http://wheretoshoot.org>.

by TONY L. LEGG,  
outdoor education center supervisor

### *Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge January 17 and 18, 2015 9 a.m.–3 p.m.*

It's time to bundle up your family and join the excitement of viewing eagles along the Mississippi River from the historic old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Viewing scopes will be stationed on the bridge to allow close-up views of eagles. The World Bird Sanctuary will present an educational program featuring a live eagle. Dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes. Parking at the bridge is \$5 per car. Free satellite parking with shuttle service is available. No reservations required.

**See page 6 for more eagle watching opportunities at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area**

# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/299](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/299)



From the east/St. Louis  
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka  
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

## HOURS:

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 p.m.

Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email [henges.range@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:henges.range@mdc.mo.gov) with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

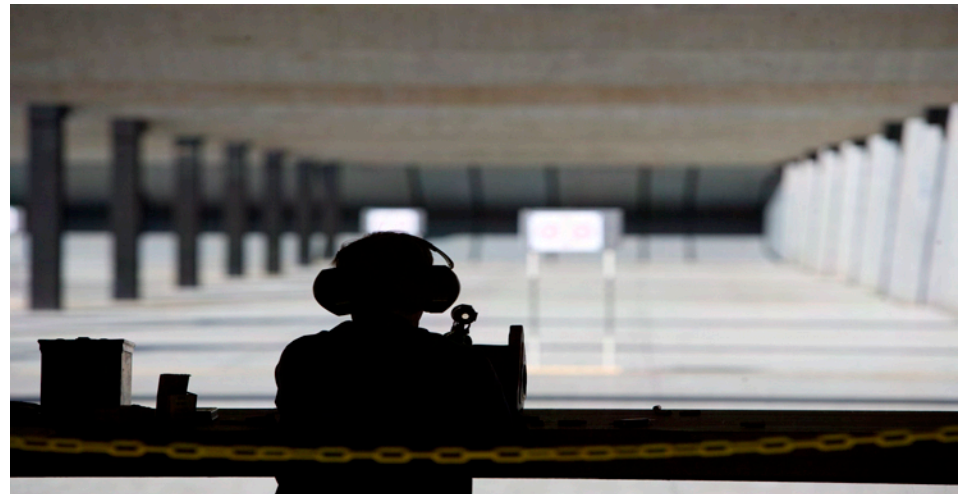


## Beginning Handgun

Jan 8 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This program will include classroom handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. Although equipment and ammo will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammo to the live-fire session. An adult must accompany anyone under age 18. (Reservations begin December 8.)



## Trigger Time – Handgun

Jan 17 • Saturday • 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” personal instruction designed to make you a better shooter. There is no classroom time, just expert one-on-one instruction from our staff. Participants must bring their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is not appropriate for beginners. (Reservations begin December 17.)

## Introduction to Firearms

Jan 22 • Thursday • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Let’s take a look at various types of firearms including rifles, shotguns, and handguns. We will examine the various types of actions and provide a hands-on demonstration of their working mechanisms. The presentation will include basic safety, home security, and general maintenance. This is a classroom program and does not include live shooting. If you are not familiar or comfortable with firearms, come to this informative educational introduction to firearms without the noise. (Reservations begin December 22.)

*Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*

# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/270](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/270)

The August A. Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center is shut down for approximately 24 - 30 months for a complete renovation. For more information please visit our website at [mdc.mo.gov/node/270](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/270) or call 636-441-4554.

## Predator Hunting

Jan 12 • Monday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

Come join us as we cover the aspects of predator hunting in Missouri, including coyote and bobcats. This program will cover tactics, calling techniques, firearms, and safety, for hunting these illusive predators. The program will be held in Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Dec 15.)

## Metallic Reloading

Jan 13 • Tuesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

This class will introduce you to the equipment, materials, and techniques for reloading metallic cartridges, and give you hands-on experience re-loading rifle and/or handgun ammunition. This class will be held in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Dec 16.)

## Shotshell Reloading

Jan 21 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Here is your opportunity to learn the inexpensive process of reloading shotgun shells using simple equipment. The technique is easy and will save you money over the cost of factory ammunition. This is a hands-on class; we'll produce quality shot shells with low-cost equipment. We cover equipment, materials, and techniques

used to reload shot shell. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin December 23.)

## Women's Intro to Firearms

Jan 22 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

If you are hesitant about firearms, or want to learn the basics of firearms, come join us as we go over the different types of firearms. This class will help individuals feel comfortable about firearms and understand how they function. We will cover firearm safety, safety in the home, different actions, ammunition, and more. (Reservations begin December 23.)

## Youth Rabbit Hunt

Jan 24 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Ages 11 - 15)

Want to learn about rabbit hunting? Join us for a rabbit hunt on August A. Busch Conservation Area. We will start in Busch Conservation Area classrooms where we will discuss biology, safety, clothing, firearms, shot size, hunting techniques and more. We will head out to the field for an actual rabbit hunt. This is for youth ages 11-15 who have not attended this program in the past. Must be accompanied by an adult, or mentor, and hunter must be Hunter Education certified. Hunter orange is required. (Reservations begin December 29.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

## HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday: 2–8 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Firearm Care and Cleaning

Jan 28 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

After the hunt, or shooting, do you how to properly clean and maintain your firearm? Maintaining your firearm is critical to keep it safe and in good shooting condition. Join our experts as they go over cleaning the different firearm actions, equipment and materials needed, and techniques to keep your firearm in top condition. This program will take place in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin December 29.)

*Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*



# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/271](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/271)



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

## HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST  
8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## In Memory of Tom O’Gorman

Tom O’Gorman, a former volunteer at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, passed away on Friday, November 21, 2014. His wife Fran, his children, Ned, Eileen and Sheila, and seven grandchildren survive Tom. Tom volunteered over 3500 hours for the Missouri Department of Conservation. He shared his knowledge of birds, trees and nature in general with many visitors to the nature center.

## Discover Nature Women: It’s for the Birds

Jan 10 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – noon  
(Women 10 and up)

Birds are an important part of our ecosystems and food chains. Discover some of Missouri’s birds by learning about their diet and ways to attract them. Explore the recreational and educational value of bird feeders with this hand-on program. Build your own bird feeder to take home to discover more about birds. (Reservations begin December 27.)

## Winter Tree ID

Jan 13 • Tuesday • 9:30 a.m. – noon  
(Ages 10 and up)

How can we tell which tree is which in the wintertime? Some people know tree shapes or bark well. The rest of us find that the best way is indoors, using twigs and a magnifying glass. Join us for hands-on experience identifying trees in winter, both indoors and outside. (Reservations begin January 2.)



*Save the Date:*  
**Feb 13 • Friday • 7 – 9 p.m.**  
**An Evening with Raptors**  
*Information in the February newsletter*

## What’s Hot in the Nature Shop!

*January and February special - 20% off*

**A Key to Missouri Trees in Winter**  
**and**  
**Voices of the Hills Remix**



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# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/271](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/271)

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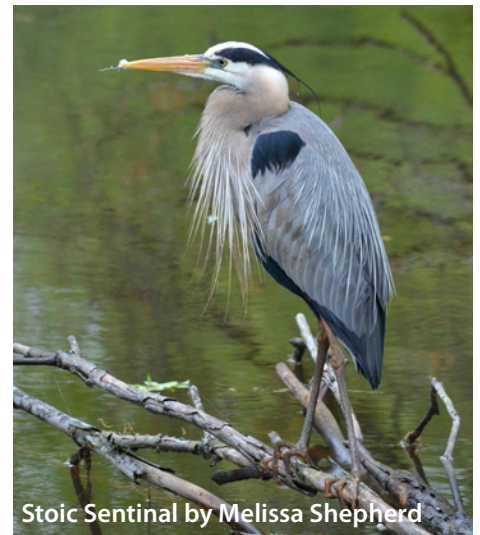
## Hallway Exhibit Mingo Swamp Photo Contest

The Mingo Swamp Photo contest is in its ninth year. Administered by the Mingo Swamp Friends Group, the photo contest is an effort to showcase the natural wonders of Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. The contest is separated into several categories (Landscape, Native Wildlife, Native Plant, People in Nature, and Artistically Enhanced) and divided into three levels of competition (Youth, Adult, and Professional).

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1944 under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as a resting and wintering area for waterfowl and other migratory birds and for the preservation of bottomland hardwood forest.

<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/mingo>

The refuge contains 21,592 acres and lies in a basin formed in an ancient abandoned channel of the Mississippi River. Mingo National Wildlife Refuge also contains a 7,730-acre Wilderness Area designated as Wilderness by Congress under the 1964 Wilderness Act to "...protect and preserve the wilderness character...for the use and enjoyment of the American people in a way that will leave these areas unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife observation, and wildlife photography are encouraged in the Wilderness Area. Mingo National Wildlife Refuge is recognized as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society as the refuge supports bird species and habitats that are of conservation priority.



Stoic Sentinel by Melissa Shepherd

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## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/10254](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/10254)

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From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

### HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

### New Year, New Moon Hike

January 20 • Tuesday • 4:30 – 6 p.m.

*(Families with children ages 5 and up)*

Enjoy the surroundings of Forest Park as we welcome the new year. The whole family will enjoy exercising their senses as we stroll on and off the trail to experience winter at night. Meet at the Forest Park Aquatic Education Lakes. Parking is available on Grand Drive. Participants should dress to be outdoors and walk a leisurely pace on the northeast side of the park. (Reservations begin December 30.)

# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/298](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/298)



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

## HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## What's Happening at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area?

While some people think there is nothing to see during the cold days of winter, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area hosts an abundance of wildlife, including birds. Each winter, waterfowl ranging from teal and mallards to snow geese and trumpeter swans, flock to our wetland pools. With five nests in a three-mile radius our national emblem, the bald eagle, is often seen over the Confluence or perched in our trees.



If the cold is too much for you, one of the best and warmest places to view our birdlife is inside the Howard and Joyce Wood Education and Visitor Center where songbirds are observed at the feeders through a large viewing window. There's the expected and unexpected alike. Tufted titmice, cardinals, and chickadees busy themselves feeding, while the Eurasian tree sparrow draws people in. An Old World transplant, stateside the Eurasian tree sparrow occurs only in the St. Louis region. The last two years, we've even been visited by a Spotted towhee, which typically doesn't occur west of Kansas City.

Inside or outside, unusual or not, there's always a bird to enjoy at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Join us this month for our programs: Sunset over the Prairie photo op and Raptor Watch, all a part of Eagle Days 2015!

## Sunset Over the Prairie: Photo Op

Jan 4 • Sunday • 4 – 6 p.m.

(All Ages)

Sunset at Columbia Bottom is always a treat, but this date will see the sunset and moonrise occur at the same moment of the day. Join us for a crisp winter walk to enjoy the best views of both the setting sun and the rising moon. With the still prairie land as a backdrop, you will want to bring your camera for a great opportunity to memorialize both events. Dress for the weather. Meet at parking lot "L". The walk will commence promptly at 4:15. (Reservations begin December 21.)

## Raptor Watch: Eagle Days 2015

Jan 17 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Jan 18 • Sunday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Birds of prey come in numerous shapes and sizes and exhibit a variety of hunting techniques. From the helicopter-like antics of the American kestrel to the "hand-fishing" feats of the Bald Eagle, one thing is common. All are enjoyable to watch. Before or after you visit Eagle Days on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, join us at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, where a variety of raptors are known to occur this time of year. Scopes will be set up at the Confluence Platform, near parking lot "N", where America's favorite raptor usually hangs out. Be sure to keep your eyes open on the way in too. (No reservations required.)





# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/300](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/300)

## Winter Wildlife - Dresser Island Hike

Jan 3 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(Adults)

Discover a place to hike along the mighty Mississippi and see pelicans, ducks, geese, eagles, hawks and more. Dresser Island Conservation Area offers a 6.5 mile hike and is a winter wildlife haven located near West Alton in St. Charles County. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous, with generally flat, open hiking. However, winter weather can make the hike more strenuous. An optional 3 mile hike is available. (Reservations begin December 19.)

## Owl Prowl

Jan 3 • Saturday • 6:30 – 8 p.m.

(All ages)

Who's that calling hooting your window? Owls are actively courting and nesting this time of year. Learn about Missouri's nocturnal birds and take a short hike in the woods in hopes of hearing owls calling. (Reservations begin December 19.)

## Regal Eagles

Jan 10 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

Eagles are some of the most majestic of all birds. The return of bald eagles to Missouri is an amazing story of conservation in action, and January is a prime month to see them. Learn about these awesome birds and where you might find them in the wild. (Reservations begin December 24.)

## Painting Missouri Wildlife

Jan 12 • Monday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Adults)

Jan 13 • Tuesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Families ages 10 and up)

Have you wanted to sketch or paint wild animals, but found they move around too much? Here is a chance to catch a few frozen in time. Observe and paint mounts of some of the birds and mammals of Missouri in our classroom. Learn about these animals and get

suggestions to improve your art. School-type watercolor paints provided or you may bring your own. (Reservations begin December 29.)

## Compass and Laser to Find Your Way

Jan 17 • Saturday • 6 – 9:30 p.m.

(Families ages 10 and up)

Have you ever hiked in the woods at night without a trail? Learn how in this unique, dark-of-night experience. Practice using a map, compass, and laser pointer to find 10 different landmarks. Designed for those who have never participated in one of our navigation events. Effort = Easy to Moderate, two to three miles over gentle hills. (Reservations begin January 2.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

### HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

*The below classes will be taught by members of the Ozark Fly Fishers. For more information contact Malcolm Royse at 636-300-1953 x 4140 or [Malcolm.Royse@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Malcolm.Royse@mdc.mo.gov) (No registration required.)*

## Introduction to Fly Tying

Jan 26 and February 2, 9 and 16 • Mondays • 6 – 9 p.m.

This four-night series will teach you all you need to know to enjoy a lifetime of creating your own flies for trout, pan fish and bass. Each class includes all materials, tools and equipment. Participants should bring a fly box or canister.

## Reading the Water for Trout

Jan 29 • Thursday • 7 – 9 p.m.

This short class will help you break down sections of a stream and identify the places where trout would mostly likely be found.

## Fly Fishing Techniques

Feb 5 • Thursday 7 – 9 p.m.

This class is designed for the fly fisher who has mastered the basics. Topics to be discussed include presentation, reading the water and hatches.

## The 25 Best Flies for Missouri Streams

Feb 19 • Thursday • 7 – 9 p.m.

This class will discuss the 25 best flies for use in Missouri trout waters. Information will be presented as a power point discussion and a hand out to all participants at the end of the program.

# Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/272](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/272)



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

## HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Regal Eagles

Jan 6 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.  
(Ages 6 – 12)

The return of bald eagles to Missouri is an amazing story of conservation in action. Learn about these awesome birds and where you find them in the wild. (Reservations begin December 23.)



## Wildlife in Winter – Homeschool Special

Jan 7 • Wednesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
(Ages 7 – 12)

How do you prepare for winter's chill? Do you get your coat, hat, or gloves? Do you stay inside your warm home? But have you ever seen a fox wearing gloves? An insect in a coat? Winter is often a time of struggle for animals that must live outdoors. Learn how various Missouri animals use special techniques to survive. (Reservations begin December 24.)

## Owl Prowl

Jan 9 • Friday • 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
(Families)

Who's that hooting it up at night? Owls, that's who! Learn what makes them such effective nighttime hunters and why they hoot so much this time of year. Please dress for the weather because we will be going outside to look and listen for these elusive nocturnal predators. (Reservations begin December 24.)

## Backyard Maple Sugaring – Landowners and Homeowners

Jan 22 • Thursday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
or Jan 24 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
(Adults)

So you have maple trees and you love maple syrup... put the two together and you've got backyard maple sugaring! Develop your own backyard maple syrup operation from tree identification to cooking. Learn to use tubing technology to increase sap production and make sap collection easier. (Reservations begin January 8.)



## Backyard Maple Sugaring – Tree Tapping for Homeschool Families

Jan 23 • Friday • 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
(Families)

Maple Sugaring is here and it's time to tap the trees! Make maple syrup fun for your family, even with just one or two trees at home. Learn about sugar maple trees, how to tap trees and turn sap into syrup. (Reservations begin January 9.)

## Maple Sugar Festival

Feb 7 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
(All ages)

It's maple sugar time! Experience conservation success and forest resources at their finest and sweetest! Visit the Sugar Bush to see trees tapped and collect the precious sap. Boil the sap down like Colonial Americans at the Three Kettle Station and using a more modern method at the Sugar Shack. Taste delicious syrup, sugar on snow taffy, and pure maple sugar. More importantly, learn to do all of this right in your own backyard. It's a day your whole family will enjoy. (No reservations necessary. Parking will be available at Rockwoods Reservation and off-site via shuttle bus.)